



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913

PH (517) 373.1725 | FAX (517) 373.0741

www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/mcmanus/

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Contact: Veronica LaDuke
517-373-1725

Ski Patrol members can keep liability protection under new Michigan law

LANSING – A new Michigan law maintains liability protection to registered members of the National Ski Patrol who provide emergency care on the slopes, said Sen. Michelle McManus, sponsor of the legislation.

“Emergency situations require quick actions, and even with the best training things don’t always go by the book,” said McManus, R-Lake Leelanau. “This new law helps protect individuals who are acting in good faith to provide emergency treatment – often in less-than-ideal conditions.”

Senate Bill 561, now Public Act 43, would maintain protection from civil damages to any member of the ski patrol who is acting in good faith and according to their training. This legislation does not protect against civil damages as a result of acts of omission amounting to gross negligence or willful misconduct.

A rule change at the national level necessitated a change in Michigan law to ensure ski patrol members would continue to have this liability protection.

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